United Nations A/C.3/65/SR.7

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
19 January 2011
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 7 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/65/89, A/65/91, A/65/92, A/65/113, A/65/114, A/65/116, A/C.3/65/L.2, A/C.3/65/L.4, A/C.3/65/L.5, A/C.3/65/L.6 and E/2010/30 (Supplement No. 10))

Agenda item 106: International drug control (*continued*) (A/65/89, A/65/93 and A/C.3/65/L.3)

1. **Mr. Venugopal** (India) said that one of the important findings of the World Drug Report 2010 was the steady global reduction in the cultivation of crops used to produce illicit drugs, since 2007. India intended to fight steadfastly against the illicit drug threat at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, in 2008, it had launched a scheme for the prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse which had made various services available to addicts, with a focus on awareness-raising, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

2. As one of the largest producers of legal opium, India was committed to using a balanced drug control policy aimed at maintaining demand and supply for legal medical and scientific purposes. In that regard, it welcomed the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

3. India had long been a victim of terrorism, which was a serious threat to all States and required concerted global action. It was a party to the 13 United Nations conventions on the question and supported the Secretary-General's invitation for Member States to take steps towards the adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be a useful complement to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, India welcomed the launch of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which would allow the adoption of integrated, balanced and coherent results-oriented and human-rights-based measures.

4. With regard to transnational organized crime, India supported the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen national capacities and help States to put in place the necessary administrative and legal frameworks and to reform their institutions. It therefore associated itself with the appeal by Jamaica, on behalf of the Caribbean Community, to UNODC to reconsider its decision to close its regional office in Barbados, which served 29 countries. India had enacted strict anti-money-laundering laws and concluded bilateral agreements with a view to conducting joint programmes to combat money-laundering, terrorism and transnational organized crime. In addition, India had decided to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. It was also concerned about the emergence of new types of transnational organized crime such as cybercrime and economic fraud. India was determined to work towards ridding the world of such scourges through regional and international cooperation.

5. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that it was important for the international community to make a concerted effort to combat criminality in all its guises. The principle of common and shared responsibility should continue to prevail in the fight against the global drug problem, with priority given to strategies to reduce supply and demand.

6. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was concerned about the resumption of opium poppy cultivation, which had been practically eliminated in 2006, as well as the alarming level of trafficking in heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants. Poverty was one of the main factors behind the cultivation of plants used to produce illicit drugs, so it was crucial to offer adequate and sustainable livelihoods to the people involved.

7. In order to address the drug trafficking for which the country remained a hub, the Government had created a drug-control steering committee, chaired by the Prime Minister. Domestic legislation in that regard had been strengthened and, in coordination with UNODC, the country had finalized a national drug control plan, with the aim of combating supply and proposing alternative prospects. It had also strengthened its cooperation with neighbouring countries.

8. **Mr. Gonzáles** (El Salvador) said that the recent massacre of 72 migrants in Mexico, including 14 Salvadorians, highlighted the links between crime and international migration, particularly in extremely vulnerable regions like Central America. He therefore invited the international community to strengthen its cooperation in those areas and urged United Nations bodies to promote an integrated global effort to combat criminality in all its forms, since the problem involved

all countries and was caused by poverty, injustice, the lack of alternatives, social exclusion and impunity. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols provided a legal framework for cooperation. However, such cooperation must not have the effect of exhausting the limited resources of developing countries, in particular. Coordinated and courageous political efforts were therefore needed from all parties, with political and technical support from the United Nations.

9. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that his country, which was experiencing a period of instability, had become a party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2007 and intended to work with the international community to strengthen civil society and combat the corruption blighting its institutions.

10. The Maldives had regrettably been classified as a Tier 2 Watch List country in the Trafficking in Persons Report, published by the United States. Nevertheless, the Government of the Maldives had taken a number of measures to address the situation, notably by improving police training and creating an independent human rights commission, which had published a report containing recommendations on the matter. Since it did not have the necessary resources to implement those recommendations, to carry out investigations or help victims, the Government appealed for regional and international cooperation.

11. Lastly, in view of its geographic position, the Maldives was no stranger to the detrimental effects of drug addiction, in particular the use of opiates. It had taken measures to identify and treat the causes of the problem at the national level and, with the help of UNODC, had developed a drug control plan in 2006.

12. **Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia) said that Member States had an obligation to find solutions, put in place the necessary institutions and train the necessary human resources in order to address the drug problem, which was a serious threat to human health and well-being, socio-economic and political stability and good governance.

13. Situated at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Ethiopia was highly vulnerable to drug trafficking and had taken various measures to combat that scourge in an integrated manner, in particular through the introduction of a national policy to combat the illegal production, distribution and use of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the promulgation of regulations on their supply, stockpiling and distribution. In addition, the Criminal Code stipulated severe penalties for drug traffickers and addicts. Ethiopia thanked UNODC for the technical assistance it had provided in the elaboration of its national drug control plan for 2010-2014.

14. Since the drug phenomenon transcended all sectors, Ethiopia had recently created an inter-ministerial coordination committee for drug control. Lastly, the Ethiopian delegation believed that it was crucial to strengthen cooperation between all the parties concerned at the regional and international levels, as well as with development partners, in order to eliminate that global scourge.

15. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that his delegation welcomed the reduction in poppy and coca cultivation and in global opium production, but stressed that the fight against illicit drugs must be stepped up and conducted on several fronts: the prohibition and eradication of illegal crops on the one hand, and preventive measures and the implementation of alternative development programmes on the other. As a result of its national five-year drug control plan, introduced in 2007, and the alternative development models such as the "San Martin" model, drug supply had been considerably reduced in Peru.

16. However, the effectiveness of the fight against drugs depended on international cooperation, which had been declining for several years. Developed countries, consumer countries in particular, must give it higher priority, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. Without help from those States, vulnerable countries would have even more difficulty achieving the Millennium Development Goals, because the traffickers were taking advantage of instability, poverty and corruption. With a view to strengthening exchanges of information, experiences and good practices at the international level, Peru again invited UNODC to compile a report presenting the current data about all the resources devoted to combating the global drug problem in the context of international cooperation.

17. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that her country, aware of the importance of combating trafficking in persons, had amended its domestic legislation to meet its international obligations and in particular had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and

Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. At the executive level, it had enacted Decree No. 8 of 2005 establishing the National Office to Combat Human Trafficking and Decree No. 1 of 2008 making the Office a national institution and providing for the establishment of a shelter. At the regional and international levels, on 23 March 2010, at the Doha Foundation Forum, Qatar had launched the Arab initiative for building national capacities for combating human trafficking. With respect to combating drug trafficking, Qatar had implemented a national strategy for 2010-2015 to prevent the entry of drugs into the country by defining the mandates of the various national institutions, in coordination with the Standing Committee on Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in accordance with Qatar's national vision for 2030. On crime prevention, Qatar had established community policing, organized several workshops and developed strategies to strengthen the links between the people and the police within a framework of shared responsibility in order to tackle security issues.

18. She welcomed the action taken by the General Assembly on combating trafficking in persons, which had led to the adoption of specific measures by Qatar, although it was necessary to unite and coordinate all efforts to eliminate human trafficking worldwide.

19. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) pointed out that, despite the challenge presented by a border with Colombia over 2,000 kilometres in length, his country had become a global reference on combating drug trafficking. The Government had taken bold measures aimed at stopping cartels from using the country to supply the major markets in the United States and Europe. Venezuela ranked fourth in the world for seizures of narcotics; it had, inter alia, impounded more than 50 semi-submersible vessels undetectable by radar and capable of transporting over 10 tons of drugs each, seized a record quantity of some 47 tons of drugs, confiscated 12,000 tons of precursor chemicals intended for cocaine production and dismantled clandestine laboratories operating along the border.

20. Under agreements it had signed, 16 drug kingpins had recently been extradited and handed over to judicial authorities in their countries, mainly the United States, Colombia and European States. In addition, 51 drug lords had been arrested and more than 6,000 traffickers had been tried and imprisoned. He recalled that in 2005 the Government had expelled the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, which had been engaging in espionage in Venezuela and violating its sovereignty. The Government had established a national plan to combat drug trafficking based on public involvement, and on 16 September 2010 had enacted a new law on the establishment of courts with jurisdiction over drug-related cases, an office in charge of selling seized property and a treatment service aimed at reintegrating drug addicts into society. Despite those successes, the United States continued to make unfounded accusations against Venezuela, which had nonetheless proved that it could eliminate drug trafficking without turning to foreign troops or giving up its sovereignty. Recalling that efforts to combat drug trafficking should not serve as a pretext for one State to impose domination over another, he requested the Security Council to refrain from intervening in matters that were within the purview of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Venezuela was determined to strengthen its cooperation with other States in combating drug trafficking in accordance with the principles set out in its constitution and in international law.

21. **Mr. Al-Shami** (Yemen) said that his country had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003, had ratified it in 2005 and had enacted several texts, such as Law No. 39 of 2006 establishing a national anti-corruption agency, Law No. 30 of 2006 on financial disclosure, Law No. 23 of 2007 on invitations to tender and Law No. 1 of 2010 on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Yemen had established mechanisms for surveillance and punishment and had conducted awareness-raising campaigns. It had also hosted the second regional conference of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network held in Sana'a in July 2010.

22. With respect to combating organized crime, Yemen had ratified several related instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. On combating drug trafficking, Yemen had apprehended and tried a number of traffickers. In 2002, it had established a general directorate in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and had set up border control posts at points of entry by land, sea and air. It had also signed several conventions and protocols on cooperation with States in the region. In

addition, Yemen had ratified many instruments and adopted preventive security measures and laws to suppress all forms of trafficking in persons. However, in his delegation's view, the best way of combating those crimes was to examine their root causes, punish the offenders, protect the victims, carry out awareness-raising campaigns, strengthen international cooperation and coordination and increase the number of international partnerships. Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, he expressed the hope that a voluntary fund to benefit victims of trafficking would soon be established.

23. Yemen participated actively in the international efforts to combat terrorism. Its security services had had significant success in recent years, having apprehended a number of terrorists and shut down several terrorist operations. Yemen nevertheless required assistance to build its national capacities and improve coordination in the areas of security and intelligence. He hoped that States, donor organizations and UNODC would provide technical and financial assistance in the form of training programmes to support his Government's efforts to combat criminal activities that threatened humanity.

24. **Mr. Sardjana** (Indonesia) said that more attention must be paid to such new forms of crime as cybercrime, trafficking in cultural property and the pillaging of natural resources, which caused harm not only to people but also to the ecosystem. Welcoming the Salvador Declaration adopted in April 2010 at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, he said that his country was determined to implement its conclusions and recommendations and to cooperate in strengthening Member States' capacities.

25. The fight against corruption remained one of the highest priorities of his Government, which had established a national plan of action comprising prevention and enforcement measures. In addition, deeming that enhanced international cooperation was required to combat corruption effectively, Indonesia had volunteered to participate ahead of schedule in the review process on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had taken part in the pilot review programme of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

26. Indonesia remained firmly opposed to trafficking in persons and stressed that efforts should be aimed at both suppressing international trafficking networks more forcefully and ensuring protection for the victims. His Government welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and continued to enhance cooperation with regional partners through the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes, known as the Bali Process.

27. With respect to counter-terrorism, Indonesia, which had been a victim of terrorism, was of the view that its root causes must be tackled by strengthening law enforcement while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. His Government continued to participate in numerous regional capacity-building and information-sharing programmes within the framework of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, in close partnership with the Australian Government.

28. Lastly, Indonesia hoped that Member States would respond more intensely to assist it in combating the increasing production of illicit drugs in the country and transnational trafficking, in which an alarming number of women and children were involved. Convinced that national anti-drug policies, to be effective, must take a multidisciplinary approach and include rehabilitation and treatment measures, his Government had established an alternative development programme aimed at offering new types of livelihood to urban drug traffickers. The keys to success would be enhanced international cooperation, shared responsibility and political will.

29. **Mr. Giade** (Nigeria) said that drug control was a priority for Nigeria, which was determined to prevent its territory becoming a transit hub for trafficking. The efforts it had made in that respect had already led a number of States to remove it from the drug majors watch list, and his Government was determined to combat drug trafficking and consumption and the related criminal activities.

30. Two Nigerian organizations were responsible for combating drugs, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). NDLEA had seized almost 115 tons of cannabis in 2009 and 450 kg of cocaine in 2010, and had arrested a

large number of criminals. It had also broken up a major international syndicate which was smuggling cocaine from South America through West Africa to Europe. It was also engaging in prevention, information and awareness promotion activities. NAFDAC for its part was responsible for combating the abuse of licit and illicit drugs and the import and sale of sub-standard drugs and products. To that end, it conducted inspections and cooperated with those concerned at the local and international levels. It had also established an inter-agency committee to coordinate national efforts to combat the abuse of prescription drugs.

31. In the context of combating trafficking in illicit drugs, Nigeria had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom and had strengthened its cooperation with other countries, as well as with regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), under its West African Joint Operations Initiative, and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).

32. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that, while his country had taken an array of measures to combat crime and corruption, while respecting human rights, it remained aware of the cross-border nature of those scourges. It was thus seeking to implement some regional programmes with other member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), focusing inter alia on cooperation between police forces. In view of the great danger presented by crime and corruption, South Africa was awaiting with interest the forthcoming Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and hoped that it would be an occasion for the international community to demonstrate more clearly its political will and its support for that instrument. It also hoped that the General Assembly would take measures to follow up the decisions contained in the Declaration made at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime, particularly with respect to cybercrime and crimes affecting the environment.

33. To combat cannabis and cocaine, in particular, his Government had taken steps which had led to a decrease in illegal imports of precursors, and had drawn up awareness promotion programmes for young people.

34. South Africa, which fully supported the work of UNODC, stressed that the Office nevertheless needed increased financial and other resources, in order to be able to implement its broad mandate. It was also pleased to be able to cooperate with the other members of SADC and the secretariat in finalizing the UNODC Regional Programme for Southern Africa.

35. **Ms. Ivanović** (Serbia) said that national, regional and international police and judiciary cooperation was of paramount importance in ensuring the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which her country was a party. The States of south-eastern Europe offered an example of fruitful cooperation in that respect. Thus, Serbia had just concluded an extradition agreement with Croatia, and was prepared to sign agreements of that type with other countries of the region. Nine of them had undertaken, in a memorandum concluded following a ministerial conference on cooperation in combating organized crime in south-eastern Europe, to conduct prevention activities, exchange information, establish joint investigation teams and harmonize legislations.

36. With respect to illegal migrations and drug trafficking, various regional initiatives had yielded positive results. Thus the members of the Regional Cooperation Council had recently agreed to cooperate in the field of military intelligence with a view to building mutual confidence and strengthening security in the region.

37. Serbia welcomed the recent adoption of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, and was taking concrete steps to combat illegal migrations and human trafficking. For example, the Government had adopted a strategy against illegal migrations for the period 2009-2014, as well as a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, and had established a coordinating body to monitor and manage migrations with a view to coordinating activities designed to prevent illegal migrations and developing capacities for combating trafficking effectively, while fully respecting human rights and making provision for the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

38. **Mr. Al-Hamadi** (United Arab Emirates) said that his country spared no effort to combat transnational organized crime in all its forms, including trafficking

in persons, money-laundering, drug trafficking and other illicit activities. It had done so by drawing up national strategies, building bilateral partnerships, engaging in international cooperation and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Additional Protocol for the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children. As a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, it had participated in combating trafficking in persons and supported the adoption by the General Assembly, in August 2010, of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. It had also contributed to financing the United Nations Global Initiative, which testified to its readiness to combat that crime and encourage the exchange of knowledge and information in that respect. The United Arab Emirates had adopted an integrated national strategy for combating trafficking in persons based on four major lines of approach: criminalization, respect for the law, assistance to victims and international cooperation. It had revised some of its legislation and had adopted effective measures for protecting victims, arresting criminals and promoting public awareness. It had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with labour-exporting countries.

39. Where money-laundering was concerned, in 2000 the United Arab Emirates had established a national commission to coordinate the guidelines against money-laundering and regulate the *hawala* system to prevent the financing of terrorism. It had also signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and had adopted the principles of the Basel Committee and the Forty Recommendations of Financial Action Task Force against Money Laundering. It had concluded memorandums of understanding in that respect with 24 countries and was participating actively in combating trade and financing offences in the context of regional and international groups.

40. In the area of drug control, his country had adopted a national plan focused on participation by society, awareness promotion and treatment of addicts, and had opened treatment centres for them. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it would continue to support the efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other competent international authorities to combat crime in all its forms, and called on States to strengthen international cooperation in that area.

41. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) said that the vicious circle of supply and demand was a major factor in the development of international organized crime and emphasized that Pakistan, as a party to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, had taken legislative and legal measures to implement the provisions of those two instruments. Thus, thanks to a strategy that combined punishment and incentives with substitution activities, it had succeeded in eliminating illicit opium production and had established a master plan for 2010-2014 designed to reduce the supply of and demand for narcotics.

42. Pakistan was convinced that cooperation was essential in that undertaking, and had participated actively in various regional and international initiatives aimed at stemming trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, including the Rainbow Strategy of UNODC and the Triangular Cooperation Initiative with Afghanistan and Iran.

43. Pakistan welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, and had adopted an ordinance on the prevention and control of trafficking in persons, which made ample provision for rehabilitation of victims; it had also established a body with special responsibility for prosecuting traffickers.

44. Pakistan was also a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and had adopted in 2010 a law against money-laundering which established a financial control service to cooperate with the banks of other countries in those areas. Pakistan had also embarked on a reform of its criminal justice system and on establishing the principles of accountability and transparency in the police force, and had implemented a system for the evaluation and comparison of personal identification information (the PISCES system) which made it possible to strengthen border controls.

45. **Mr. Ahmed** (Bangladesh) emphasized that despite its limited resources and the porosity of its borders, his country was committed to addressing the drug problem. It was a party to the three major drug-control conventions and had strengthened the suppression of drug trafficking, which was subject to severe penalties, including capital punishment. In view of the direct link between organized crime and illegal

money, Bangladesh was strengthening its cooperation with international agencies and its development partners in order to combat laundering of assets. As asset recovery was a complicated procedure, the Government requested assistance in that respect from all States, particularly those which were parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

46. With regard to combating international terrorism, Bangladesh was a party to the thirteen international instruments on that subject, and had inter alia adopted a law against money-laundering in 2008 and an anti-terrorist law in 2009. The Government had also hosted, in November 2009, a regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors on countering terrorism in South Asia.

47. Combating trafficking in persons was a top priority for Bangladesh; he welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and hoped to see Member States cooperating in that undertaking, given the nature of the phenomenon.

48. Lastly, in his delegation's view transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, trafficking in persons and money-laundering were social scourges that were closely interlinked and affected all countries, and particularly the least developed countries, which did not possess the resources to cope with them. That being so, Bangladesh expected a great deal of the international community in that regard, and was for its part ready to cooperate fully with it.

49. **Mr. Al-Harty** (Saudi Arabia), after commending UNODC for all it had done to promote technical cooperation and enhance coordination of efforts to counter trafficking in persons and assuring it of his Government's wholehearted support in the context of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, said that criminal justice had greatly evolved in his country in respect of investigations, criminal proceedings, mediation, legal aid, arrest, custody and pretrial detention. Under article 47 of the Constitution the right to litigation was guaranteed to all citizens.

50. Saudi Arabia had tightened its drug laws. A special office within the Ministry of the Interior was working with a national committee to combat drug addiction to implement a strategy that focused on awareness-raising, local initiatives, treatment of drug addicts and cooperation with Arab and other States. In addition, the relevant authorities had set up programmes to reintegrate drug addicts into society. Notwithstanding the successes achieved, drugs continued to be a problem; indeed, in recent years the problem had worsened. The police had recently seized 8 million tablets of Captagon, 20 kilos of heroin and 2 tons of hashish.

51. Saudi Arabia wished to cooperate with the international community in the fight against drugs, and believed that it was essential to respect the international regional and bilateral agreements in that area.

52. **Mr. Han** (Myanmar), noting with pleasure that opium poppy cultivation and heroin production had declined, said that Myanmar was a party to all three international drug control conventions. It had set up a national framework, had signed a cooperation agreement with five States in the region and was also participating in joint operations with the ASEAN States and China.

53. Since poverty was one of the principal factors encouraging poppy cultivation in the border areas, his Government had introduced a strategy based on reduction of supply, reduction of demand and law enforcement. It was also encouraging economic development in the border areas and promoting alternative development among farmers. As a result, opium production in Myanmar had decreased by close to 60 per cent between 2002 and 2009.

54. His Government had been combating the drug problem with its own resources; it now called on the international community for assistance so that it could achieve its goal of eradicating drugs more swiftly.

55. **Mr. Mkhantar** (Morocco) said that criminal networks had become a complex reality and were a threat to international peace and security. After ratifying the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in 2002, Morocco had amended some of its texts, including the new Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, with a view to bringing them into line with the Convention and had implemented a multisectoral national strategy for the prevention of organized crime. It had also undertaken to reform the administration and the justice system — essential pillars of the rule of law — and had enacted legislation to combat money-laundering and corruption, thereby completing its legal arsenal in that area.

56. It planned to continue assuming its responsibilities in the region. In May 2008, it had organized, in Rabat, in cooperation with UNODC, the fifth conference of Ministers of Justice of French-speaking African countries, which had drawn up a draft international convention on mutual legal assistance and extradition and, in August 2009, it had hosted the first ministerial meeting of African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

57. Given that no country could face those various threats alone, his Government reiterated its willingness to act in concert with the international community to fight the scourge of drugs in a spirit of shared responsibility. It had long been cooperating with the various bodies of the United Nations system, including UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). It was also concerned about the new consumption trends and the new routes for hard drugs — which went through Africa — and the links between drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking in the sub-Saharan region. It had implemented a multidimensional strategy designed both to reduce production and demand and to encourage alternative activities, such as ecotourism projects. His Government was working to develop the northern part of the country in an effort to wipe out cannabis production with the help of the population.

58. Morocco had diversified its cooperation in that area and had inter alia set up a mechanism for mutual police and legal assistance. Although the strategies introduced at the national level were essential in order to fight those scourges, they would not succeed unless they were accompanied by sustained regional and international cooperation and appropriate technical assistance.

59. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) recalling the ties between drug trafficking and other forms of crime, stressed that the global fight against drugs must be extended to other criminal activities.

60. Her Government shared the concerns expressed in the UNODC World Drug Report 2010; it had been fighting the criminal organizations engaged in narcotics trafficking for decades and had developed an integrated strategy designed to reduce the supply of — and demand for — drugs and to counter drug-related criminality. The concerted actions of the Colombian institutions had produced positive results in the area of public health, well-being and security. In 2009, cocaine production had fallen to its lowest level since 1999. The overall area under coca cultivation had been reduced, largely as a result of aerial spraying and eradication by hand. Alternative activities were central to Colombia's strategy to counter drugs and made it possible to offer a viable framework to people who gave up illicit crops and were financed with national resources.

61. In the view of her delegation, international cooperation based on the principle of joint and shared responsibility, coordination among countries, financial and technical cooperation and information-sharing were essential in order to fight money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. And yet, national efforts ran up against a lack of will and lack of cooperation on the part of all States. Given the transnational nature of those scourges, the international community must focus on countering them throughout the world. His delegation reaffirmed its unshakeable determination to continue working at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels by specific coordination and cooperation measures to eliminate that threat to the world.

62. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which had been adopted 10 years earlier, was an effective tool and must be made universal for it provided an essential framework for international cooperation based on trust, reciprocity and collaboration.

63. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) said that transnational organized crime, including terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking and piracy called for innovative measures.

64. With the help of UNODC, the West Africa Coast Initiative, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office for West Africa and INTERPOL, Sierra Leone had converted its joint interdiction task force into a transnational organized crime unit. It hoped that the initiative would be extended to the other members of the Economic Community of West African States so that they could build strong institutions to collectively address those challenges.

65. Deeply concerned by the consequences of the proliferation of small arms, her Government had established a national commission to deal with that issue and to promote sustainable development in the subregion. That mechanism would help to detect and

intercept the flow of arms and accelerate the process of incorporating the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and other Related Materials into national legislation.

66. As a State party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption Sierra Leone continued to address the issue of corruption by bringing corrupt officials to justice. The commission to counter corruption was reviewing the asset declaration process with a view to improving investigations into corrupt acquisition of wealth and possession of unexplained wealth. There was also an urgent need to increase surveillance of coastal and maritime borders in order to combat drug trafficking, piracy and human trafficking in order to strengthen regional integration, expand the basis for cooperation and improve security in West Africa and in other countries bordering the Atlantic.

67. Her Government reiterated its commitment to the global fight against transnational organized crime, for it was convinced that the drug problem was no longer a problem for just one State. She thanked UNODC for the technical assistance programme to develop Sierra Leone's prison reforms and called on the international community once again to provide financial and technical support to States in dire need of assistance, particularly those emerging from conflicts so that they could deal with that dangerous phenomenon.

68. **Ms. Klein** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that her organization was committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefited both migrants and host countries and had been working actively for more than 15 years to counter trafficking in persons; in so doing it had helped more than 15,000 victims.

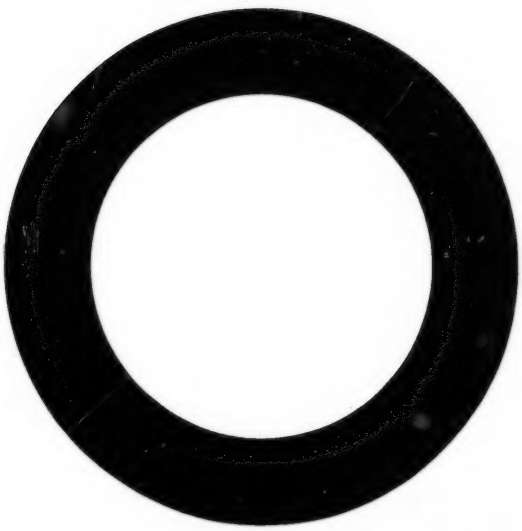
69. IOM continued to advocate for the prosecution of all forms of human trafficking. It was building the capacity of Government and civil society institutions to address those challenges, inter alia by training officials, police forces and judges and by helping in the development of counter-trafficking legislation, policies and procedures. The recent adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was encouraging as there was still a need for raising awareness of that phenomenon. Efforts to counter human trafficking must also take into account the well-being of the victims.

70. Turning to the issue of terrorism she said that, as a consequence of the September 11 attacks, migration was seen as a national security issue and measures aimed at preventing terrorism were explicitly linked to immigration policies. In its latest publication on the relationship between international terrorism and migration, IOM warned against linking migration too closely to security issues while, at the same time, pointing to a number of areas — such as border control, identification systems and biometrics, information exchange and cross-border cooperation and, finally, domestic laws and policies — where migration measures intersected with security issues.

71. As migration seemed destined to increase in the coming decades it was crucial to strengthen international cooperation and enhance global efforts to prevent terrorists and others from exploiting migration channels while at the same time meeting the positive aspirations of legitimate migrants and recognizing the many contributions the latter made to society and development.

72. IOM would continue working with Governments and national agencies to ensure that migratory flows were a positive force for the development of individuals and societies.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.



United Nations A/C.3/65/SR.8

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
27 January 2011
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 11 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (A/65/336)

(a) Advancement of women (A/65/38, A/65/208, A/65/209, A/65/218, A/65/268 and A/65/334)

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/65/204 and A/C.3/65/L.7)

1. **Ms. Bachelet** (Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) congratulated the General Assembly for putting words into action by creating UN-Women and said she was pleased to have been appointed to head the new entity. The establishment of UN-Women marked three major changes. First of all, by placing the entity under the leadership of an Under-Secretary-General, the General Assembly had given the question of gender equality a priority on a par with other development priorities, which was important for the United Nations system but would also have effects on the ground. Secondly, the creation of such an entity represented an important step towards greater coherence and would make it possible to bring together the operational and normative aspects of United Nations support to Member States in order to advance gender equality and give greater strength to the action of United Nations entities. Thirdly, in establishing UN-Women, the General Assembly had acknowledged that investments in the promotion of gender equality must be commensurate with the Organization's vision and with the stakes involved, and that decades of insufficient financing must come to an end. Many countries had agreed to include the promotion of women's rights in their constitutions, laws and policies, yet much remained to be done to move from the inclusion of women's rights in the law to the effective exercise of those rights, from the definition to the practical implementation of policies and strategies for women's empowerment and from declarations to concrete actions to level the playing field and empower women to take full advantage of their rights and contribute as equal partners to all aspects of development.

2. She intended to focus on four main priorities. Firstly, all necessary efforts were being made for the new entity to be operational by 1 January 2011. Secondly, consultation and collaboration with United Nations entities would be strengthened to give more coherence and weight to action carried out in the field of promotion of gender equality. Thirdly, the dialogue must be resumed with the many interested parties that had campaigned vigorously for the establishment of UN-Women in order for the entity's priorities to reflect the expectations of women from every region of the world. Fourthly, it would be essential to reach out to Member States and build new innovative partnerships in order to secure the $500 million deemed necessary by the Secretary-General to finance the start-up phase of UN-Women. As support from Member States would be crucial for responding to those priorities, she looked forward to approval by the General Assembly of the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the regular budget, and in particular the grant modality, to enable UN-Women to become a truly composite entity with a clear identity and a strong esprit de corps. She looked forward to the Economic and Social Council's election of the Executive Board of UN-Women so that it could begin its work without delay. During the coming months, all stakeholders would be consulted with a view to the development of UN-Women's future strategy, the hallmarks of which would be aligned with the entity's founding resolution.

3. Introducing the reports of the offices that currently made up UN-Women, she said that, with regard to violence against women (A/65/208) and trafficking in women and girls (A/65/209), despite the many actions taken by Member States and other stakeholders against those phenomena, they persisted everywhere in the world. She drew attention to the actions and strategies recommended in the two reports. Going on to introduce the report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/65/204), which focused on the progress made by intergovernmental bodies in gender mainstreaming, she emphasized that the Second and Third Committees were those that referred most to gender equality issues and that there was a need for improved monitoring and reporting of progress made in respect of policies, strategies, resource allocation and programmes. Concerning the report on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/65/334), which showed mixed results, she drew attention to the good practices identified in the report as well as the recommendations for improving the representation of women in the United Nations system. The note on the

activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (A/65/218) showed that, although UNIFEM had been able to stretch its resources to enable it to provide support to a greater number of countries, it was clear that the demand for United Nations support on gender equality was way beyond the capacity to respond. That, too, added to the case for a strong and effective UN-Women.

4. **Mr. Errazuriz** (Chile), welcoming the historic creation of UN-Women and the fact that its leadership had been entrusted to an eminent Chilean representative, said he hoped the new entity would quickly become operational and would enjoy sustained financing. He asked how his delegation could assist the Under-Secretary-General in her task.

5. **Mr. Kodama** (Japan) assured the Under-Secretary-General of his country's collaboration and asked what the priorities of the new entity would be.

6. **Ms. Fulp** (United States) pointed out that women's rights were the measure of the well-being of societies and assured Ms. Bachelet of her country's support.

7. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic), assuring the Under-Secretary-General of her country's collaboration, said she hoped the creation of a focal point charged with the question of the fate of women living under occupation would be contemplated within the new entity.

8. **Ms. Hadid** (Australia) said she would like to know the future priorities of UN-Women and how her country could help to implement them, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

9. **Mr. Glaufret** (European Union) said he expected the creation of UN-Women would make it possible to close the gap between the Organization's normative and operational work in the areas of gender equality and empowerment of women and to enhance the coherence and efficacy of the action carried out. He asked what the new entity's priorities for the next few years would be and how the Under-Secretary-General planned to organize collaboration between UN-Women and other United Nations bodies whose action related directly or indirectly to gender equality and empowerment of women.

10. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia), recalling the role played by his country in the process leading to the election of the Executive Board of UN-Women, said he would like to learn what the Executive Director intended to do to address the problems posed in all countries, including developed countries, considering that the action of the country teams was currently focused on developing countries.

11. **Ms. Brichta** (Brazil) would like to know the future priorities of UN-Women, in particular for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

12. **Mr. Siddique** (Pakistan) said he wished to learn how the Executive Director meant to elaborate a consistent strategy for the advancement of women while taking into account the cultural perspectives of the different regions of the world.

13. **Ms. Bachelet** (Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), replying to the delegations' questions, said that the four entities that would thenceforward make up UN-Women had contributed greatly to the advancement of women and that many countries had adopted laws, policies and strategies of major importance, even if their implementation was not always satisfactory. Much more must be done, especially on the ground, to solve the most urgent and most complicated problems. At the start of 2011 UN-Women would define its priorities, taking into account all the expectations of the Member States and the perspectives of both local women's organizations and the entities of the United Nations system. UN-Women was not intended to replace the action that other components of the system carried on to promote empowerment of women and gender equality, but to work with them in their respective fields of competence to find solutions to specific problems such as sexual violence, the situation of women in the occupied territories or the health of the girl child. Its purpose was to strengthen coordination and synergy within the system, both at Headquarters and in the field, so as to make it possible to obtain the desired results while respecting the specificities of each entity.

14. UN-Women had already set itself a number of priorities. In the first place, it was determined to give women's organizations an opportunity to be heard, so as to gain a clear idea of the condition in which women lived, inasmuch as their situation might differ significantly from one region to another and from country to country. Two other priority areas called for prompt action: first, violence against women, not only in developing countries, countries under occupation or

countries in conflict, but also in developed countries; and second, women's and children's health, for, despite the efforts made, in some parts of the world little had been achieved. That absence of results was unacceptable when there was no doubt as to the measures to be taken and the resources to be allocated to achieving goals 4 and 5 of the Millennium Development Goals. Action must also be taken to promote empowerment of women worldwide. In Latin America, for example, much remained to be done to make gender equality a reality and improve respect for women's rights and it was vital to work for their economic empowerment. As everywhere else in the world, women there were highly productive and played a key role in development as well as in the area of emergency relief. UN-Women greatly counted on support from Member States to enable it to strengthen its capacities in the field and truly fulfil its mission. It would formulate various requests as it became fully operational.

15. **Ms. Mballa** (Cameroon) noted the importance Ms. Bachelet accorded to action on the ground and would like to know what would be done, in particular, for rural women, who, though they constituted a considerable part of the population in developing countries, were often neglected.

16. **Ms. Arias** (Peru) said she would like to know how the Executive Director intended to strengthen the role of UN-Women in the field in order to continue to work for the advancement of women and women's rights.

17. **Ms. Sunkavalli** (India) asked how the Under-Secretary-General planned to improve coordination between the different United Nations agencies active in the promotion of women's issues so that more women were appointed to senior executive posts within the United Nations.

18. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said she was convinced that the experience acquired by Ms. Bachelet as President of Chile would be invaluable for addressing the problems of middle-income countries, which included a sizeable number of the countries of Latin America.

19. **Ms. Werdaningtyas** (Indonesia) asked how UN-Women planned to intensify its cooperation with regional organizations such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

20. **Ms. Bachelet** (Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) said that the United Nations system comprised many different entities, most of which conducted activities that contributed directly or indirectly to gender equality, but that only 6 per cent of the total resources of the system were allocated to such activities. That was a problem that absolutely must be solved, given the key role that women played in development, especially in rural areas. Strengthening action for the advancement of women conducted in the field would take different forms and would be based on existing structures, such as the vast network of offices which UNIFEM had in many countries. It was not a question of building a parallel system, but of collaborating closely with all the entities already present on the ground so as to avoid overlapping activities and improve the existing mechanisms, such as the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The goal was to establish activities and strategies common to all levels, be it at Headquarters or at the regional, national and local levels. She knew she could count on the support of States and pointed out that the world's women were looking to UN-Women, but also to States, to move forward their cause.

21. **The Chair** assured Ms. Bachelet of the Committee's confidence and said he was convinced that she had the necessary enthusiasm and vision for the success of her mission.

22. **Ms. Mane** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), introducing the report on efforts to end obstetric fistula (A/65/268), said that, while that scourge had been virtually eliminated in industrialized nations, it still afflicted more than 2 million women in the developing world. Its persistence was explainable in terms not only of problems of access to health care, but also of broader economic and sociocultural inequities, poverty, gender equalities and early marriage. During the previous two years, considerable progress had been made, due mainly to more effective interventions, enhanced data collection and analysis, advocacy programmes, partnerships such as the inter-agency group H4+ and stronger political and financial commitments. The midterm review of the Campaign to End Fistula showed that additional resources and intensified efforts were required at all levels. Like maternal mortality, obstetric fistula was almost entirely preventable where there was universal and equitable access to quality reproductive health

care. UNFPA joined the Secretary-General in calling on the international community to devote increased funding to goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals.

23. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) enquired about the examples of good practices mentioned briefly in the report and about how the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the Secretary-General would contribute to the Campaign to End Fistula, especially with regard to the stigma and discrimination to which the women continued to be subject.

24. **Ms. Mane** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund) suggested, with regard to the question of good practices, consulting other publications that provided more detail on the subject. As for the Global Strategy, she was convinced it would have an extremely beneficial effect on all aspects of maternal health thanks to the awareness-raising campaigns being conducted worldwide. Obstetric fistula was a very clear example of the ease with which a whole set of maternal health problems could be prevented and of how little was done to that end. The objective was to encourage countries to launch a prevention campaign to put an end to child marriage and facilitate women's access to surgical and obstetric care. Obstetric fistula could be treated medically, but the major problem resided in cultural beliefs that surrounded it, resulting in stigma and discrimination. The agencies of the United Nations system and their partners must therefore devote a considerable portion of their resources to educating communities in the prevention of fistula and making them understand that it could be treated and that it was important to accept the victims and allow them to receive the care they needed.

25. **Ms. Manjoo** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences), referring to the recent High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, said that, like many defenders of human rights, she considered violence against women the "missing goal" and called for a stepping-up of efforts to apply laws, policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women. Introducing her first thematic report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/14/22), which addressed the issue of reparations to women who had been subjected to violence, she explained that the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law defined the contours of State responsibility for providing reparation to victims for acts or omissions attributable to the State. States must exercise due diligence to eliminate, reduce and mitigate the incidence and consequences of discrimination. The obligation to provide reparation, however, which was recognized by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, was seldom implemented, even as women were the target of both sex-specific and other forms of violence whose origin frequently lay in pre-existing patterns of structural subordination and systemic marginalization. Hence, measures must be taken to address both individual reparation and the structural factors that made violations of women's rights possible.

26. On the subject of country visits, the Special Rapporteur said that in November 2009 she had been to Kyrgyzstan, where important measures, legislative in particular, had been adopted to improve the status of women and protect their fundamental rights. Such measures by themselves did not suffice to remedy the root causes, and the consequences of discrimination and various forms of violence, such as domestic violence, bride-kidnapping, trafficking, custodial violence, sexual violence and harassment against lesbians, remained unreported and unpunished. In addition, other social phenomena, such as the feminization of poverty, social acceptance of certain forms of violence and a resurgence of patriarchal practices, were rendering women more vulnerable. She had recommended the strengthening of the machinery for the protection of women, including the establishment of an independent body responsible for women's rights and gender equality, and encouraged the Government to make budgetary commitments towards the implementation of programmes relating to gender equality and the socio-economic status and rights of women. Following the inter-ethnic violence of June 2010, which had included physical and sexual attacks against women and girls, she hoped that no efforts would be spared to bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice. In March 2009 she had been to El Salvador to review the progress made on the recommendations of her predecessor and assess the current situation and the measures taken by the State to solve the problems of violence against women. She applauded the national law reform proposals relating to violence against women, gender equality and the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents, as well as the ongoing discussions on the

ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Rome Treaty. She was concerned, however, at the rise in the number of murders of women and girls and the persistence of numerous other forms of violence that were widespread. A full report on the visit would be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2011. Before the end of 2010 she would visit Algeria and Zambia; a visit to the United States of America was planned for January 2011; and she was awaiting responses from other countries that had been contacted.

27. She had also contributed to the second report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights and the activities of her Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/HRC/13/64), highlighting the lack of progress since the initial report and denouncing the persistence of violence against women, in particular rape and gang rape, including in areas not affected by armed conflict, and discriminatory laws and practices. She condemned in the strongest terms the horrible acts of sexual violence perpetrated by armed groups against hundreds of women and girls in Walikale territory in August 2010 and recalled that the primary responsibility for preventing such acts and protecting the population lay with the Government.

28. She had continued to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental expert bodies tasked with monitoring the situation of women's rights. She had presented a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session and held consultations with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) regarding greater cooperation between the two mandates. In addition, she had participated in conferences, colloquiums and consultations on various issues related to violence against women, in particular the phenomenon of femicide in Latin America, discrimination and violence against migrant domestic workers and human rights in humanitarian emergency response.

29. Concerning the adoption by the Human Rights Council of its resolution 15/17, on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, during her mandate she would continue the efforts made to address the root causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, including discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls. Furthermore, in the light of the numerous allegations she received concerning violence against women defenders of human rights, she looked forward to collaboration with the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Council in its resolution 15/21 on the rights of peaceful assembly and of association and with the five independent experts of the working group created by that resolution to facilitate the exchange of best practices regarding the elimination of laws that discriminated against women.

30. The communications contained in her report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/14/22/Add.1) revealed major trends, in particular more and more widespread sexual violence and an increase in cases of violence against women human rights defenders; the interaction of multiple forms of discrimination; the failure of States to prevent and suppress violence against women; and the difficulties posed by discriminatory laws and other legal provisions that might give rise to such violence. Her next thematic report to the Council would address the challenges posed by the interaction of multiple, pervasive and systemic forms of discrimination and their nexus with violence against women.

31. She stressed that every day women and girls struggled for the right to a life free of violence and that it was incumbent on everyone to seek the means to put an end to the most prevalent and pervasive form of human rights violation.

32. **Mr. Vigny** (Switzerland) asked how the United Nations could help Member States to strengthen their national programmes to combat violence against women and whether access to best practices and lessons learned could be better institutionalized based on data collected in response to questionnaires or previous assessments. Concerning UN-Women, he wanted to know in which fields the new entity would interact with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Finally, he said that Switzerland was deeply concerned by the unacceptable sexual violence committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and asked if the United Nations presence in the country could take extra steps to better protect civilian populations.

33. **Ms. Mundebele** (Swaziland) stressed that her country attached great importance to the role of the family in the struggle against violence against women and asked what programmes could be established to strengthen the structure of the family through education and aware-raising of the issue.

34. **Ms. Hadid** (Australia) asked if there were success indicators that could effectively measure the long-term impact of measures to prevent violence against women and said that her country was working to draft a national plan to reduce violence against women and children that would be based on a number of indicators to measure progress.

35. **Mr. Giaufret** (European Union) explained that the European Union was in the process of drafting a global strategy to strengthen the scope and effectiveness of the campaign against violence against women within its borders. He asked the Special Rapporteur how, in her opinion, UN-Women could best contribute in operational terms to efforts to combat violence against women and what could be done to strengthen the coordination of the work by the different entities involved in combating violence against women in order to improve the effectiveness of United Nations activities, and finally, how she envisaged her cooperation with the new Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice.

36. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba) requested further information on the measures and initiatives implemented by Member States to prevent violence against women and on which steps gave the best results, and wanted to know what role the educational system could play in the prevention of violence against women.

37. **Ms. Boisclair** (Canada) stressed the importance of country visits and encouraged all Member States to send a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur. Her country welcomed the cooperation that the Special Rapporteur intended to establish with the new Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice, and wanted to know what would be the subject of the Special Rapporteur's following thematic report, recalling Canada's view that the interaction of many forms of systematic violence against women was an issue that must be addressed in detail.

38. **Mr. Siddique** (Pakistan), referring to paragraph 44 of report A/HRC/14/22, in which the types of violence traditionally excluded from compensation programmes were mentioned, requested clarifications on the concept of serious violations of social, economic and cultural rights and on how the victims of such violations would be identified.

39. **Ms. Manjoo** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences) said that, in terms of States' due diligence, the issues of prevention, protection, suppression and compensation were clearly defined in international law. However, not enough had been done to establish how Member States and civil society understood due diligence and she would address that shortcoming. Regarding best practices, there were examples around the globe but they had been poorly documented and she appealed to Member States to improve their response rates to questionnaires. The struggle against violence against women had focused on legislation and policies and had not addressed implementation adequately. Furthermore, social, economic and cultural problems must also be addressed, and the role of the family must be taken into account in order to determine which solutions to apply in local contexts. A further major challenge lay in the fact that other forms of violence were revealed when combating the problem of gender inequality. Accordingly, encouraging women to participate in political life also exposed them to violence.

40. Referring to UN-Women, the Special Rapporteur was looking forward to seeing how she would fit into the work of the entity. Concerning the usefulness of special procedures, she constantly encouraged civil society to find concrete applications for the reports which they issued.

41. **Mr. Saadi** (Algeria), welcoming the forthcoming visit to his country by the Special Rapporteur and assuring her of his Government's cooperation, asked if there were reliable indicators or statistics, from sources other than the legal sphere, on violence against women. He also asked what role civil society could play in the area of awareness-raising to end such violence.

42. **Mr. Stenvold** (Norway) stressed the need for social transformation to improve gender equality. He asked how awareness of the issue could be raised among men and boys.

43. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile), referring to the fate of women killed by their husbands who had been released on probation, wanted to know what specific protection measures the Special Rapporteur recommended.

44. **Mr. Olukanni** (Nigeria) wanted to learn of the different experiences that had been gained in the field of education and at what educational level it was best to start talking about the subject of gender equality. He stressed the importance of having best practices in that regard. Where political activities were concerned, he suggested that solutions encouraging women's participation should be found.

45. **Ms. Manjoo** (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences), responding to representatives' questions, said that indicators on sexist violence were incomplete, inasmuch as they ignored the human aspect. The figures obtained must take into account such measures as increases in budgets to combat gender-based violence. Concerning the role of education, States did not systematically include the teaching of women and girls' human rights in school curricula. Civil society initiatives were very important in that regard, but were inadequate. Referring to the question by the representative of Nigeria, she said that such education must begin in primary school. Civil education must recognize, promote and protect the rights of all but it often included religion while not necessarily including human rights and the respect for dignity. Since violence against women was also a political, civil, economic, social and cultural issue, it was not enough merely to criminalize it: it must also be tackled through the participation of all sectors of society. Furthermore, when donors redirected their attention to men and boys, funds for women's rights organizations were often wrongly cut. Such organizations, which were not funded by national authorities, depended heavily on foreign financing and found it hard to survive in a local context.

46. The issue of women killed by men on probation was an aspect of due diligence, which comprised the obligation to protect, prevent and punish. The criminal justice system had a duty to carry out investigations to guarantee the personal safety of those concerned, because individuals released on probation or bail could move back into their communities and endanger women, especially those with the courage to take legal action. Regarding the roles reserved for men and women in our societies, stereotypes must be combated within the family, the community, society, the educational system and in politics. While women were encouraged to participate in politics and greater representation was called for, the essential enabling environment was not being created.

47. **Ms. Zou** Xiaoqiao (Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) introduced the Committee's report (A/65/38). She urged all States that had not yet ratified the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol to do so and encouraged States with reservations to those instruments to withdraw them. She said that the Committee was grateful to the General Assembly for having granted it, through resolution 62/218, three annual sessions for an interim period effective from January 2010, pending entry into force of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as that had allowed the Committee to reduce the backlog of reports awaiting examination. The Committee was aware that its timely consideration of submissions motivated States to present their reports in accordance with the terms of the Convention and it was therefore continually examining ways of streamlining its working methods to prevent a backlog of reports awaiting consideration. The Committee had systematically reminded States with long-overdue reports to submit them within a specific time frame, which had led to the submission of 15 new reports. In order to enhance its working methods, the Committee had adopted a new follow-up procedure in its concluding observations: it now noted two concerns requiring priority actions on which the State party should provide information within one or two years. The new procedure would allow the Committee to maintain close dialogue with States parties on urgent issues and help them to implement their obligations under the Convention. The Committee was also reviewing the format, content and length of its concluding observations in order to make them more effective.

48. The Committee was expanding the range of stakeholders with which it sought to implement the Convention. Although implementation was primarily the responsibility of States parties, input from non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and parliamentarians was also encouraged. The Committee welcomed the creation of UN-Women and looked forward to establishing strong ties with the entity, as it had with other women's rights experts. The Committee had taken note of the establishment of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice and would be pleased to cooperate with it, although it had some concerns regarding possible overlapping of their mandates.

49. The Committee continued to draft general recommendations in respect of the interpretation of provisions of the Convention. It was currently preparing four draft general recommendations, which it hoped to adopt soon, relating to: the interpretation of article 2 of the Convention; older women and the protection of their rights; the economic consequences of marriage and its dissolution; and harmful practices. With a view to promoting women's rights in all

situations, the Committee was continuing its practice of issuing statements related to specific events, including on the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 and on the inclusion of women in the peacebuilding and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Experts from the Committee had attended many meetings to speak about issues such as discrimination against women in law and practice, the effects of climate change on women and harmful traditional practices.

50. The Convention and the Committee had made impressive progress. The Convention was well on the road to universal adherence, and many reservations had been withdrawn. The Committee had become the legitimate and respected voice for women's human rights by helping States parties to comply with their treaty obligations, promoting legal and policy reform, and influencing international jurisprudence. The challenges remaining were essentially related to applying the Convention at the national level. Those included the persistence of stereotypes, discrimination and violence as well as discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

51. **Mr. Vigny** (Switzerland) said that his Government supported the Committee's efforts to consider new working methods that would lead to more concrete applications of its concluding observations. He inquired as to the current status of the measures designed to strengthen the implementation of the Committee's recommendations to countries following the presentation of their national reports. He also wished to know how UN-Women could assist States in complying with their reporting obligations and, in particular, with their obligations to implement the Convention and the Committee's recommendations.

52. **Ms. Hadid** (Australia) asked the Vice-Chair what areas of domestic legislation States parties should review as a matter of priority in order to fulfil their commitment to improving women's economic security.

53. **Ms. Boisclair** (Canada) said that her Government welcomed the Committee's efforts to improve its working methods. She asked what could be done to strengthen the contributions of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions to the Committee's work; what measures States could take to improve reporting on their follow-up to Committee recommendations; and how States could simplify their reports while still providing the required information.

54. **Mr. Giaufret** (European Union) requested more details as to the Committee's efforts to identify areas of mutual concern with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and initiatives to develop cooperation between the two committees, as well as information as to how the Committee would collaborate with UN-Women and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice to promote gender equality.

55. **Ms. Werdaningtyas** (Indonesia) said that the issue of violence against women was of special concern to her Government. Countries of origin, transit and destination all bore a responsibility to protect women migrant workers and coordination between them therefore needed to be strengthened. She requested details on the mechanisms used to end violence against women migrant workers. She also asked the Vice-Chair to share information that had been provided by destination countries regarding implementation of the Committee's general recommendation No. 26.

56. **Ms. Oladipo** (Nigeria) said that persisting patriarchal stereotypes in her country made it difficult to integrate provisions of the Convention into domestic law and asked how the Committee could support States in overcoming such challenges.

57. **Ms. Zou** Xiaoqiao (Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), responding to the questions from delegations, said that the Committee would need the support of UN-Women in implementing the Convention, given that, while the Committee could give technical assistance to States, it did not have special funds allocated for that purpose. Likewise, the Committee would welcome cooperation with the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice, especially since the Committee itself also worked to fight discriminatory laws and practices. In that regard, the new working methods that it had adopted helped States parties to advance in key areas, including the reform of legislation on women's rights and gender-based violence. In terms of the issues which States should address as a matter of priority, she said that each country had specific problems and the Committee would make recommendations as to which areas of domestic legislation required priority attention after having considered that country's individual report. In many countries, stereotypes and discriminatory laws on inheritance and land rights, among other issues, were a

major obstacle to the full exercise of women's rights. Regarding the role of civil society, the Committee encouraged non-governmental organizations to present reports on the implementation of the Convention and also requested national human rights institutions to provide information. General recommendation No. 26 was a key instrument in addressing violence against women migrant workers, and she hoped that all States parties would ensure its implementation. The Committee would strive to work together with other agencies and to secure more financial support in order to provide the best assistance possible to States parties, particularly in terms of offering detailed guidance that responded to the specific context in each country.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.